

IN THE CLAIMS

1-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) An apparatus for clamping and locating shroud segments during a spraying operation, said apparatus comprising:

a base;

a pair of elongated arms, each comprising a first end and an opposite second end, each of said first ends coupled to said base;

a clamping element coupled to each said arm second end, said clamping element for securing a shroud segment to said base, such that at least one edge of the shroud segment is positioned against and masked by said clamping element; and

a locating member coupled to said base between said pair of arms for positioning the shroud segment with respect to said base, said locating member configured to engage a shroud segment surface for positioning the shroud segment.

7. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 6 wherein at least one of said arms is deflectable transversely relative to a length of said arm.

8. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 6 wherein at least one of said arms is fabricated from spring steel.

9. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 6 wherein at least one of said arms is deflectable between a first position wherein the shroud segment is held by said clamping element and a second position wherein the shroud segment is released from said clamping element.

10. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said at least one arm is biased toward said first position.

11. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said locating member comprises a yoke defining a slotted opening, said opening sized to receive a locating rib on extending from the shroud segment.

12. (currently amended) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 11 further comprising a cam positioned within said yoke slotted opening, said cam for moving said arm that is deflectable arm between a first position wherein the shroud segment is held by said clamping element and a second position wherein the shroud segment is released from said clamping element.

13. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 12 further comprising an adjuster coupled to said cam for controlling operation of said cam.

14. (currently amended) An apparatus for clamping gas turbine engine shroud segments, said apparatus comprising:

a base;

a pair of arms comprising opposite first and second ends, each of said first ends coupled to said base; and

a clamping element coupled to each said arm second end, said clamping element configured to clamp the shroud segments to said base such that at least one edge of each shroud segment is positioned against and masked by said clamping element.

15. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 14 wherein at least one of said arms is deflectable transversely relative to a length of said arm.

16. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 14 wherein at least one of said arms is fabricated from spring steel.

17. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 14 wherein at least one of said arms is deflectable between a first position wherein the shroud segment is held by said

clamping element and a second position wherein the shroud segment is released from said clamping element.

18. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said at least one arm is biased toward said first position.

19. (new) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 14 further comprising a locating member coupled to said base between said pair of arms for positioning the shroud segment with respect to said base.

20. (new) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 19 wherein said locating member comprises a yoke comprising a slotted opening defined therein, said opening sized to receive at least a portion of the shroud segment therein.